

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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UNCLAS MANILA 16166

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, UN, RP
SUBJECT: ROMULO STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER INGA
- ISSUES

REF: MANILA 16127

1. SUMMARY: IN A STATEMENT ISSUED PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 14, FONMIN CARLOS ROMULO SPOKE OF PHILIPPINE POSITIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ASEAN AND NIEO AT THE UNGA. NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN. END SUMMARY.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS: ROMULO SAID THAT PHIL DELEGATION "STANDS READY TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN STRENGTHENING THE UN MACHINERY FOR THE FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS." HE STATED THAT THE PHIL DELEGATION WILL STRESS THAT "ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS, INDEED, INSEPARABLE FROM, POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS, A THEME WHICH SHOULD PREDOMINATE DURING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THIS YEAR." ROMULO ALSO WARNED THAT HIS DELEGATION "WILL BE VIGILANT TO REFUTE ANY MISINTERPRETATION OR ADVERSE ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES THAT IS CONTRARY TO THE REALITY OF ITS
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OBSERVANCE AS WE SEE IT." ECHOING PRESIDENT MARCOS' ILA ADDRESS OF AUGUST 28 (MANILA 15138), HE ADDED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD NOT BE USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR A "NEW MORAL IMPERIALISM" OR THE IMPOSITION OF ONE NATION'S MORAL STANDARDS OVER ANOTHER.

3. ASEAN: ROMULO STATED THAT HE WOULD TAKE THE ADVANTAGE

OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PROJECT THE AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF ASEAN. HE DESCRIBED ASEAN AS A VIABLE ORGANIZATION IN PURSUIT OF ITS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL GOALS AS EVIDENCED BY THE ASEAN-US DIALOGUE IN WASHINGTON.

4. NIEO: ROMULO SAID THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NIEO. HE NOTED THAT THE PHILIPPINES WILL CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE ONGOING COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES.

5. COMMENT: ROMULO'S REMARKS ARE RESTATEMENTS OF PAST PHILIPPINE POSITIONS. HE BROKE NO NEW GROUND. TOUSSAINT

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